

"SKELETON" STATESMANSHIP.

There is no suggestion of which a citizen of the United States, instinct with the emotions of patriotism, can take so much pleasure as the expansion of our country. We live in an age of great events and mighty development. Our progress is not that of conquest or of arms, of violence or wrong; but it is in the righteous fulfillment of the divine injunction

to be fruitful and multiply, to go forth and occupy the face of the earth. In nothing has Providence vouchsafed its beneficence to our country so liberally or so significantly as in preserving us from the scourge of foreign war and internecine conflicts and directing the whole thoughts, aspirations, and activities of our people into the channels of peaceful

Planted in the centre of a great continent, in a region prolific of every product, animal and vegetable, that can flourish between the mows of the arctic and the heats and miasmas of the tropical zones, with the Atlantic on one hand, the Pacific on the other, and great streams in the interior, tempting to universal commerce; inhabiting a country presenting all the varieties of soil and surface, of temperature and crop, which the most diversified agriculture could provide—a country teeming with

over, with every valuable and precious mineral prized

in the arts or in commerce; located, too, midway between the dense effete civilizations of Asia and the iron despotisms of Europe; looming up as a land of promise to the longing gaze of the downtrodden populations in both continents; with an active and

rapidly-developing system of marine transportation bringing us into quick and facile contact with these people on either hand; and accumulating a wealth of cash capital, which at last begins to be commensurate with the size of the population.

It has not been fifty years since ours was one of the most diminutive powers of Christendom, and since the great European powers regarded every mark of consideration which they vouchsafed to us as an act of condescending condescension. At a recent

no power on earth can bring into the field, to meet any great exigency of State, after due time for preparation, a more powerful army or navy, or carry on a great contest with greater wealth of resources in men, money, or supplies. Our population and power

even now almost doubles that of any one of the great powers which took the field against Napoleon in the second decade of the century ; and, if we are not at this day the greatest power on the globe it is cer-

tain that we rank among the few great leading

It is not recollected by many that this rapid growth, and this rise in rank among nations, has not been regular and gradual ; but that, while it has, indeed been constant from the beginning, it has

nevertheless been in great part sudden within the period of fifteen years past. Many financial causes concurred in depressing the energies and retarding the development of the country during the period which intervened between the close of the last war with Great Britain and the annexation of Texas. It has been only since the latter event, which we refer to as a historical period, and not as a producing cause, that the most marked and astonishing development of the country has occurred. The action of railroads, of ocean and river steam naviga-

tion, of the telegraph, and of the thousand and one inventions and perfections that have been made in machinery and the arts, has been the producing cause of this marvellous development and expansion of our country ; and these agencies had told with comparatively little effect before 1844. That was about the period in which our people first began to apprehend the extraordinary destinies which were open

ing to the repentine; and it has been since that period that American civilization has been carried across the vast central regions of the continent and planted on the shores of the Pacific.

It was the nascent mind of Jefferson which first conceived the probability of this result; and it was by his procurement that the expedition of Lewis and Clarke was sent out, early in the century, to explore and take possession, in our name, of the valley of the Columbia or Oregon river. But how far did his inspired prescience outstrip the narrow ideas of the common mind? Even twenty years after, or only thirty-five years ago, a representative, of great industry and intellect from Virginia, exerted himself with unwonted zeal to induce Congress to occupy Oregon and our Pacific coast in such manner as would render our title good against all the world to the line of 40° 40', which we claimed. His measure was pronounced visionary and chimerical, and was lost in the House which rejected it because it could not realize

that our institutions would ever reach those distant shores. The consequence has been, that we lost six degrees of latitude, the gold mines of the Fraser river, the beautiful Island of Vancouver, (which

the Long Island of the Pacific,) and have been required to concede to Great Britain the free navigation of the Columbia, one of our greatest rivers. What if Great Britain owned Long Island and port

The narrow views of the men of 1823 were excusable, however, in comparison with those of the men of our own times, who would still dwarf the country in spite of its subsequent history. There

are men of miniature vision at present in our public councils, who would dwarf the Union to the dimensions of 1840 or 1893; who would confine its operations within the narrow horizon of their own intellectual vision; who would reduce its army and navy to "skeletons;" who would strip the country of itself of the thews and sinews of power, of the flesh and blood of comeliness, and confine and coffin it up

They would not merely, like the House of 1823, leave our domain itself to be occupied and held by the foreigner, but they would, in the name of economy, abandon the enterprising pioneers who, with more public spirit, go out to possess and inhabit it, to the tomahawk and mercies of the savage.

Within the last two years chains of overland mail posts have been established from our western Mississippi settlements to the Pacific States, a half dozen formidable Indian wars have been suppressed at different points of our immensely extended frontier; and the formidable rebellion of an erotic band of adulterers and adulteresses has been crushed.

cers who had planted themselves in the heart of our territory and on the direct path of our communication with the Pacific States, has been reduced;—and at a temporary increase in the public expenditure